

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-05 L-01 ACDA-05 NSAE-00

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

ISO-00 NSC-05 SS-15 /059 W

----- 127129

R 251845Z OCT 74

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8426

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 4546

USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

USLOSACLANT

CINCLANT

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 5962

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO, LU

SUBJ: DRC MULTILATERAL EXAMINATION OF LUXEMBOURG 1975-1979

FORCE PLANS

REF: (A) USNATO 4563 (NOTAL), (B) USNATO 5838 (NOTAL)

(C) STATE 233746 (NOTAL) (D) USNATO 5930 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: ON OCTOBER 24, DRC CONDUCTED MULTILATERAL EXAMINATION OF LUXEMBOURG 1975-1979 FORCE PLANS AS PRESENTED IN LUXEMBOURG RESPONSE TO DPQ(74). DISCUSSION CENTERED ON SIZE OF BATTALION COMMITTED TO AEC MOBILE FORCE (AMF), AIR DEFENSE PLANS, AND SIZE OF LUXEMBOURG CONTRIBUTION TO ALLIANCE IN RELATION TO COUNTRY'S FINANCIAL RESOURCES.
END SUMMARY.

1. CHAIRMAN (HUMPHREYS) OPENED DRC MULTILATERAL EXAMINATION OF LUXEMBOURG FORCE PLANS BY POINTING OUT:

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A. LUXEMBOURG AUTHORITIES HAVE STATED THAT THEY CANNOT INCREASE SIZE OF THEIR BATTALION COMMITTED TO ACE MOBILE FORCE (AMF) WITHOUT CHANGING LUXEMBOURG LAW, A CHANGE THEY CONSIDER UNLIKELY IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES.

B. LUXEMBOURG WILL COMPLETE ITS TOW ACQUISITION PROGRAM NEXT YEAR.

C. LUXEMBOURG HAS DEFERRED PREVIOUS PLANS TO ACQUIRE LOW-LEVEL AIR DEFENSE WEAPONS UNTIL 1978 IN ORDER TO REPLACE VEHICLES IN INFANTRY BATTALION AS MATTER OF PRIORITY.

2. HUMPHREYS POINTED OUT REAL INCREASE IN LUXEMBOURG GNP HAS BEEN SUBSTANTIAL. LUXEMBOURG PER CAPITA GNP IS 4TH HIGHEST IN EUROPE; PER CAPITA DEFENSE EXPENDITURES ARE LOWEST IN EUROPE. DEFENSE EXPENDITURES ACCOUNT FOR ONLY 3.5 PERCENT OF GOL BUDGET. IN VIEW OF THOSE FIGURES, CONSTRAINTS ON DEFENSE EXPENDITURES ARE SELF-IMPOSED AND LUXEMBOURG COULD LOOSEN THEM.

3. HOSTERT (DEPTUY PERMREP) AND MAJ KAYSER (DEFAD) REPRESENTED LUXEMBOURG. HOSTERT REPLIED THAT THE PRINCIPAL VALUE OF LUXEMBOURG'S CONTRIBUTION TO NATO WAS POLITICAL AND SYMBOLIC. LAST ELECTIONS BROUGHT LEFTIST MAJORITY TO POWER FOR FIRST TIME, HOWEVER, THERE WAS NO ALTERNATIVE TO NATO FOR LUXEMBOURG'S SECURITY. PROVIDING AN ADDITIONAL RIFLE COMPANY WOULD REQUIRE MODIFYING LAW GOVERNING LUXEMBOURG BATTALION (LOI ORGANIQUE). IN PRESENT POLITICAL CONTEXT, SUCH CHANGE IS NOT POSSIBLE. CONCERNING AIR DEFENSE WEAPONS, PROCUREMENT DECISIONS OF LUXEMBOURG'S NEIGHBORS, ESPECIALLY THOSE WITH FORCES IN AMF, WILL STRONGLY INFLUENCE GOL CHOICE OF WEAPON. MAJ KAYSER STATED LUXEMBOURG IS STUDYING REPORT PROVIDED BY NATO CONCERNING WARNING CAPABILITY AGAINST BATTLEFIELD SURVEILLANCE RADARS AND ACTIVE INFRA-RED SYSTEMS. REGARDING NBC IMPROVEMENTS, LUXEMBOURG HAS DETERMINED ARMY'S DOSIMETERS ARE QDEQUATE IN QUANTITY AND QUALITY. ARMY NEEDS NEW GAS MASKS AND PROTECTIVE CLOTHING; LUXEMBOURG WILL SPEND 600,000 BELGIAN FRANCS PER YEAR BETWEEN 1974-1978 TO CORRECT HIS DEFICIENCY.

4. HUMPHREYS STRESSED TO COMMITTEE THAT SMALL COUNTRY LIKE LUXEMBOURG NEEDS ASSISTANCE IN IDENTIFICATION AND SELECTION OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT FOR FORCE IMPROVEMENT. CHAIRMAN POINTED OUT CONFIDENTIAL

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TO LUXEMBOURG REPS THAT DRC COULD NOT ACCEPT SPECIAL PLEADING TO ALLOW FOR POLITICAL SITUATION. ALL MEMBER NATIONS HAVE POLITICAL PROBLEMS. WITH SUCH A SMALL DEFENSE BUDGET, GOL WAS BOUND TO HAVE ALLOCATION AND PRIORITY PROBLEMS. HOWEVER, WITH ONLY MARGINAL INCREASES IN SPENDING, GOL COULD HAVE BOUGHT BOTH AIR DEFENSE WEAPONS AND REPLACEMENT VEHICLES. DRC COULD NOT FAIL TO DRAW ATTENTION TO NEEDED IMPROVEMENTS WELL WITHIN GOL'S REACH. EVERY COUNTRY SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN ALLIANCE ON SCALE COMMENSURATE WITH ITS ABILITY. WHEN HOSTERT REPLIED IT WOULD BE EASIER TO GET EXTRA DEFENSE CREDITS THAN TO CHANGE ORGANIC LAW, HUMPREYS COUNTERED HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE GOL DO BOTY.

5. HSAPE REP (BG MILLER) STATED LUXEMBOURG BATTALION, AS PART

OF AMF, WAS SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION. SHAPE WOULD LIKE TO SEE GOL UPGRADE IT TO SAME LEVEL AS BATTALIONS PROVIDED BY OTHER COUNTRIES. SHAPE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO SEE GOL PROVIDE MORE RESOURCES FOR AIR DEFENSE.

6. HUMPHREYS MUSED ALOUD THAT PERHAPS LUXEMBOURG COULD CALL UP RESERVE COMPANY FOR ACTIVE DUTY TRAINING IN PARTICIPATION WITH AMY. LUXEMBOURG REPS MADE NO REPLY.

7. RE REP (CLINARD) ASSOCIATED HIMSELF WITH CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT THAT EACH NATION IN ALLIANCE SHOULD MAKE CONTRIBUTION COMMENSURATE WITH ABILITY. ALLIANCE WOULD BENEFIT IF LUXEMBOURG INCREASED DEFENSE EXPENDITURES TOWARD LEVEL CONSISTENT WITH NATO ALLIE'S SPENDING. WHILE RECOGNIZING PROBLEM WITH PARLIAMENT, US YOPES GOL CAN OVERCOME OBSTACLES IN ORDER TO INCREASE SIZE OF BATTALION AND IMPLEMENT PRIORITY FORCE GOALS.

8. NETHERLANDS REP (CARSTEN) REFERRING TO THAT MORNING'S NAC MEETING, CALLED ATTENTION TO EXCHANGE BETWEEN LUXEMBOURG PERM REP (FISHBACH) AND CANADIAN PM TRUDEAU. FISHBACH HAD ASKED WHETHER INFLATION WOULD HAVE NEGATIVE EFFECT ON CANADIAN DEFENSE EFFORT. PRIME MINISTER RESPONDED THAT ALLIES' DECISIONS IN THIS SAME DEFENSE SPHERE WILL STRONGLY INFLUENCE CANADA'S DECISIONS. HUMPHREYS STATED HE HOPED LUXEMBOURG REPS WOULD REPORT PRIME MINISTER'S COMMENT TO CAPITAL. MCAULIFFE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 11 JUN 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ATO05962
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741091/abbryycf.tel
Line Count: 137
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) USNATO 4563 (NOTAL), (B) USNATO 5838 (NOTAL) (C) STATE 233746 (NOTAL) (D) USNATO 5930 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 MAR 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <23 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DRC MULTILATERAL EXAMINATION OF LUXEMBOURG 1975-1979 FORCE PLANS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, LU
To: STATE
SECDEF INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS
USCINCEUR
USNMR SHAPE
USLOSACLANT
CINCLANT
MBFR VIENNA

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005